

SENATE CHAMBER,
AUSTIN, May 23, 1870.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment. President Don Campbell presiding. Roll called. Quorum present. Prayer by the chaplain. Journal of Saturday read and approved.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS.

Senator Alford presented memorials of citizens of Fayette county relative to Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railway Company. Read and referred to Committee on Internal Improvements.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE.

The Chief Clerk of the House announced House joint resolution No. 13, awarding to the wife of Colonel N. A. M. Dudley, United States Army Superintendent of State Penitentiary, the salary of such office from the date of his appointment.

Also, House bill No. 29, entitled "An Act to provide for the enrollment of the militia," etc.

Laid over under the rules.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

To the Hon. DON CAMPBELL,

President of Senate :

SIR: Your Committee on Engrossed Bills, having examined and compared Senate bill No. 8, "An Act to incorporate the town of Hallsville, in Harrison county, Texas;" also Senate bill No. 41, "An Act to confirm the compromises and settlements between the corporation of the city of Galveston, the Galveston City Company, the Houston and Galveston Wharf and Press Company, and the Galveston Wharf Company;" also Senate bill No. 58, "An Act to incorporate the Galveston Horticultural Society;" and Senate bill No. 75, "An Act for the relief of the heirs of General Sam Houston, deceased;" find the same to be correctly engrossed.

G. T. RUBY,
P. W. HALL,
E. L. DOHONEY,

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ENROLLMENT

COMMITTEE ROOMS,
May 23, 1870.

To the Hon. DON CAMPBELL,

President of the Senate :

SIR : The Committee on Enrollment have examined and find correctly enrolled Senate joint resolution No. 6, "To authorize officers elect to act under existing laws until further legislation," and this day at eleven o'clock and fifty minutes, A. M., presented the same to the Governor for his approval.

B. J. PRIDGEN,
Chairman of Committee.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Senator Mills offered the following resolution :

WHEREAS, In many counties of this State the civil dockets of the District Courts are burdened with a great number of causes, which have stood uncalled for trial for several years, by reason of which parties are practically denied justice, and in some counties prisoners have been confined in the jails, charged with crime, without trial, for many months, and in some instances for years ; and

Whereas, There are no District Courts in this State, organized in accordance with the Constitution of the State ; and

Whereas, This Legislature has now been in session about one month, and justice and public policy demand the speedy appointment of judicial officers and the organization and holding of the courts, therefore

Resolved, That the Judiciary Committee of the Senate be requested to report a bill, at the earliest possible moment, dividing the State into judicial districts, so that His Excellency the Governor may send in his nominations of judges to this body for confirmation.

Adopted.

Senator Priest introduced a bill entitled "An Act to Organize Common Schools."

Read first time, and referred to Committee on Education.

Senator Priest introduced a bill entitled "An Act to Change the Name of Anna O'Donnell to Anna Rowe."

Read first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Priest offered the following resolution :

WHEREAS, It seems exceedingly desirous on the part of some members of the Senate and House of Representatives that the true condition of the State as to peace and order, lawlessness and crime

should be known—whether any murders or other high crimes are now being committed on the good people of Texas by lawless men, or whether or not all the telegrams or newspaper accounts of such outrages are not just gotten up to favor the passage of the bill to organize the militia of the State; and

Whereas, Resolutions have been passed in the Senate, calling on Senators to report all such cases known to them, etc., which duty we wish to perform in a most satisfactory and reliable manner, to the end that the truth of the case shall be known, believing that such outrages, if any there be, by lawless men on the lives of citizens will find no favor or apologists in this body, but that all will unite in condemnation, and in providing ample remedies to bring to punishment bands of lawless men, whether called knights or Ku Klux, or by any other name, banded together for mischief, to the great terror of citizens, and to the great prejudice of our State abroad, even if it should require the adoption of a strong militia system; therefore

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be requested to open correspondence, immediately, with officers or other confidential persons in every county in the State, and ascertain the number of murders in each county during the last two years, and the dates thereof, the characters murdered and the perpetrators, and all kindred facts connected therewith necessary to be known, and report the result of his inquiry to the Senate as soon as practicable.

Senator Bowers offered the following amendment:

Amend by striking out "Secretary of State," and inserting the words "Committee on State Affairs."

Senator Flanagan moved a postponement of the whole matter till Monday at twelve o'clock.

Yeas and nays called for. Result as follows:

Yeas—Alford, Bowers, Broughton, Clark, Cole, Dohoney, Flanagan, Latimer, Pickett, Pridgen, Pyle, Shannon—12.

Nays—Mr. President, Baker, Ford, Fountain, Gaines, Hall, Mills, Pettit, Priest, Rawson, Ruby, Saylor—12.

Motion to postpone lost.

Senator Ruby moved the previous question. Lost.

Vote taken upon original resolution.

Yeas and nays called for. Vote as follows: Yeas fourteen, nays ten.

Yeas—Mr. President, Baker, Flanagan, Ford, Fountain, Gaines, Hall, Mills, Pettit, Pickett, Priest, Rawson, Ruby, Saylor—14.

Nays—Alford, Bowers, Broughton, Clark, Cole, Dohoney, Latimer, Pridgen, Pyle, Shannon—10.

Absent—Bell, Douglas, Evans, Hertzberg, Parsons—5.

Resolution adopted.

Senator Baker offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be and he is hereby instructed to issue certificates for the payment of the per diem of the officers and employes of the Senate, to the Secretary and his assistants, to the engrossing and enrolling, journal and file clerks, to the sergeant-at-arms and his assistants, to the doorkeeper and his assistants, and to the postmaster, each eight dollars per day. Adopted.

Senator Rawson introduced a bill entitled " An Act to incorporate the Harrison County Agricultural and Mechanical Association."

Read first time and referred to Committee on Agricultural Affairs.

Senator Bowers introduced a bill entitled " An Act to provide for the appointment of county surveyors, and for other purposes."

Read first time and referred to Committee on Public Lands.

Senator Pickett offered a joint resolution proposing amendments to section two, section three, and section four, of article five of the Constitution of the State of Texas.

Read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Gaines offered the following joint resolution, and asked it be referred to Committee on Judiciary:

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas, That any person or persons in this State that may attempt to bribe or defraud any person or persons of their vote, and force them to vote for any person or persons for any office whatever, by denying them employment of any kind, land or property, refusing to renew leases, shall be deemed guilty of an offense, and shall be fined in the sum of five hundred dollars, or two years imprisonment.

It was so referred.

Senator Gaines offered the following resolution :

WHEREAS, The Hon. H. R. Latimer holds a seat in this Senate to which it is believed by many that he is constitutionally ineligible, therefore,

Resolved, That the Committee on Elections and Privileges be directed to investigate this case and report to the Senate.

Adopted.

Senator Pridgen introduced a bill entitled " An Act to Incorporate Victoria Fire Company No. 1."

Read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Saylor offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Committee on Contingent Expenses be authorized and requested to purchase suitable furniture for the committee rooms of the Senate committees, and that the chairman of each committee furnish J. S. Mills, Chairman of Committee on Finance, the necessary requisitions. Adopted.

Senator Ford introduced a bill entitled "An Act to Amend an Act Prescribing the Duties of Justices of the Peace, passed August 28, 1858."

Read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Under direction of the President, the Secretary carried to the House, for concurrence, Senate Bill No. 8, entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Hallsville, Harrison County, Texas."

Also Senate Bill No. 41, entitled "An Act to Confirm the Compromise and Settlement Between the Corporation of the City of Galveston, the Galveston City Company, the Houston and Galveston Wharf and Press Company, and the Galveston Wharf Company."

Also Senate Bill No. 75, entitled "An Act for the Relief of the Heirs of General Sam Houston, deceased."

On motion of Senator Priest, the Senate adjourned to 12 M. to-morrow.